Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

23 October 2006

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin:

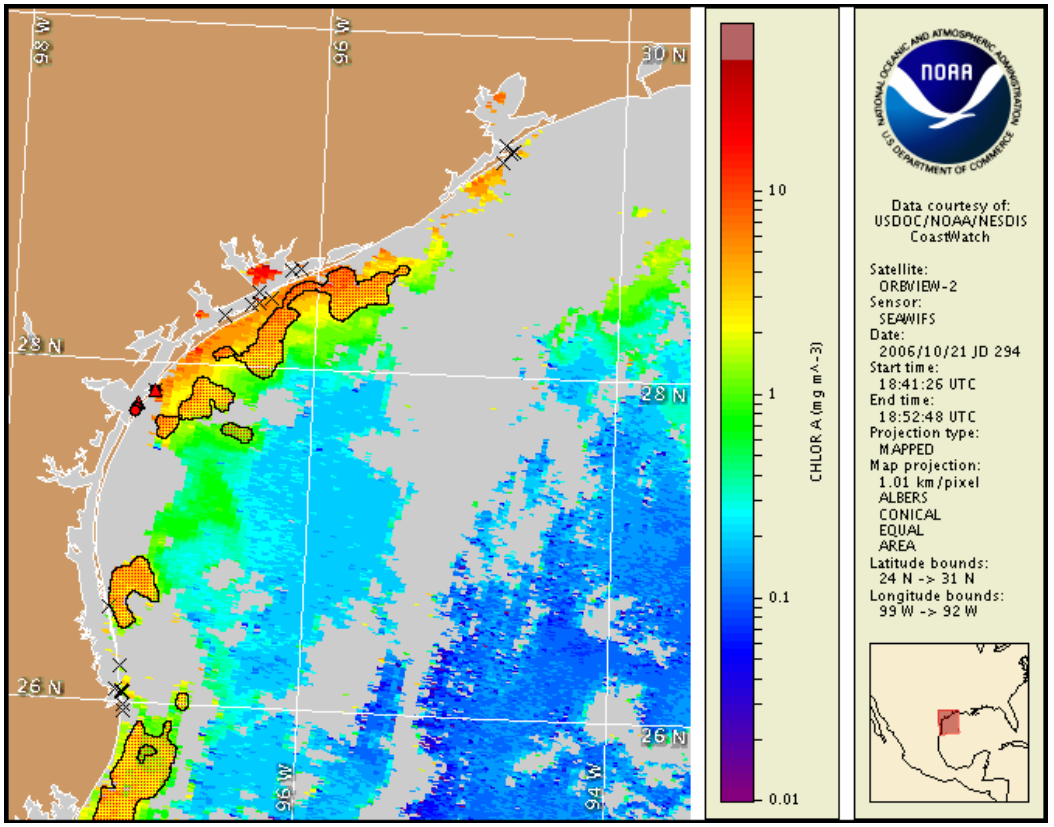
Conditions Report

As of Thursday, a harmful algal bloom persisted in portions of Nueces and San Patricio Counties. Impacts are expected to be patchy low to moderate today in Neuces and San Patricio Counties and patchy moderate to high over the next couple of days. Dead fish were reported last week in Nueces and San Patricio Counties and along northern Padre Island. Dead fish smell, while unpleasant, does not produce the same respiratory irritation as red tide.

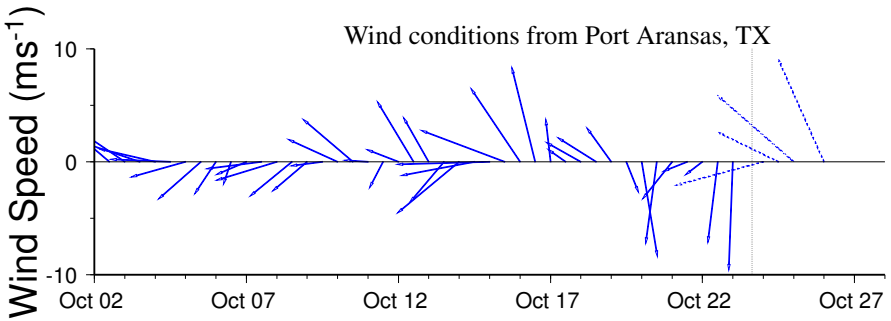
Analysis

Satellite imagery from October 21 indicates high chlorophyll patches from Matagorda Bay potentially extending south to the Mexican border (although imagery is obscured over the key areas of Corpus Christi/Aransas/northern Padre Island). The imagery shows a high chlorophyll feature (˜3 ug/L) offshore of Padre Island between 26d52'N and 26d27'N. The feature near Matagorda would lead to reports of discolored water. As of yet, it does not obviously indicate harmful algae. The expected windshift tomorrow to east and SE winds will resolve whether Karenia is present (respiratory irritation, etc.). Dead fish were also seen in the general area of the feature off Padre Island in an overflight on Friday. Sampling of the offshore feature is recommended. The maximum transport of the bloom from the Corpus Christi area is expected to be about 35 kilometers south since Saturday.

-Lopez and Wynne

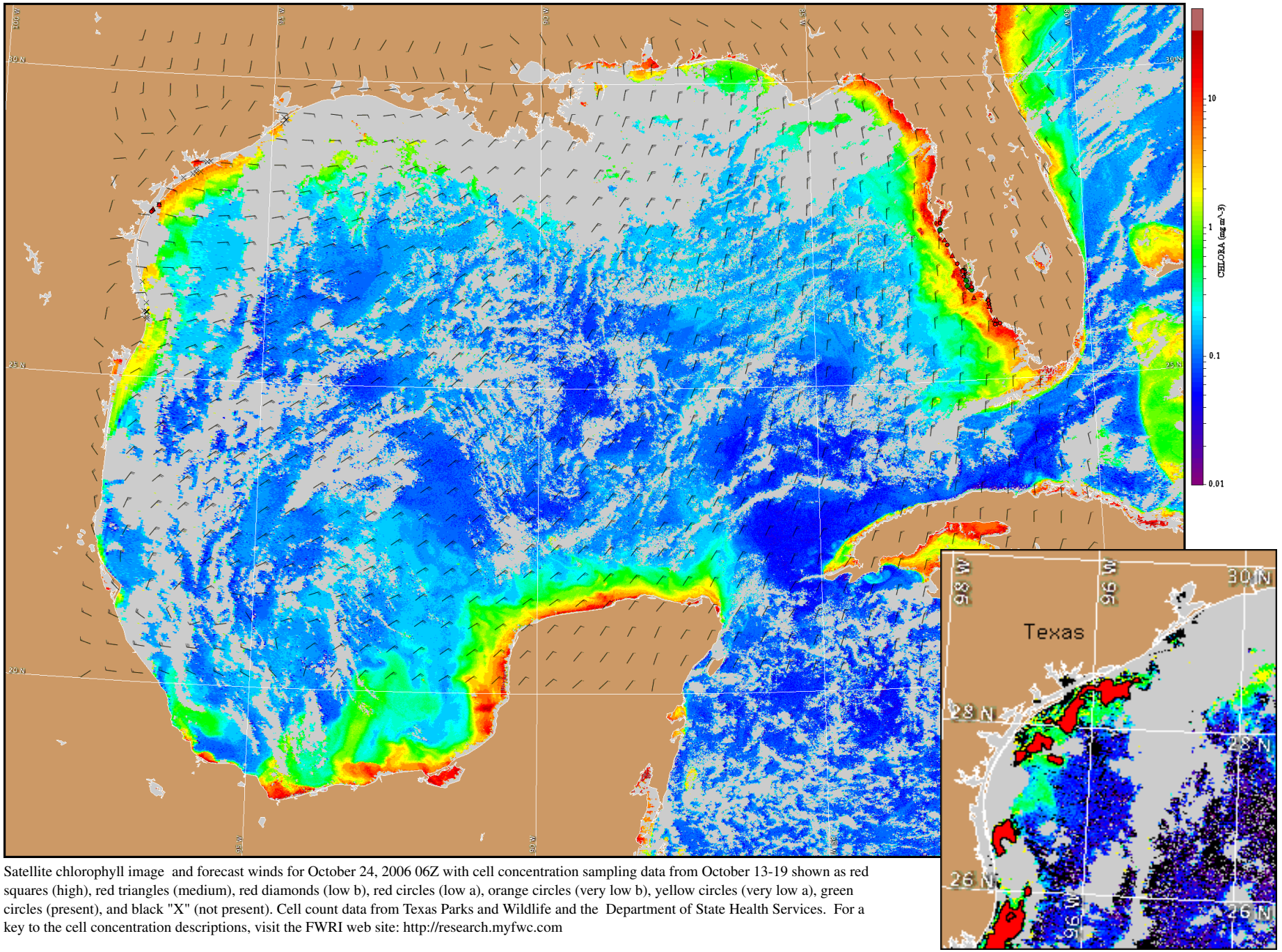


Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from October 13-19 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present). Cell count data from Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Department of State Health Services. For a key to the cell concentration descriptions, visit the FWRI web site: http://research.myfwc.com



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

Today winds will be North/Northeast around 15-20 knots (7-10 m/s) becoming East tonight. Tuesday and Wednesday winds will be Southeast to South at 10-20 Knots (5-10 m/s).



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for October 24, 2006 06Z with cell concentration sampling data from October 13-19 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present). Cell count data from Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Department of State Health Services. For a key to the cell concentration descriptions, visit the FWRI web site: http://research.myfwc.com

Verifi ed and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).